

# SESSION GUIDE



## Week Six – February 13-17, 2012



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### **Date to Remember**

**February 18, 2012** – Last day for bills to be retained in a committee or subcommittee for the purpose of reconsideration. See [House Rule 7.16\(b\)](#)

### **House Business**

Today, February 9, 2012, the Florida House approved the General Appropriations Bill, and related implementing and conforming bills, representing a total budget of \$69.2 billion for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Once the Senate has approved its budget bill, representatives from both chambers will participate in the Budget Conference process. In this process, the Speaker of the House and Senate President each appoint conference committee members to work together on the budget. The committees will produce conference reports on the budget and each conforming bill. The House and the Senate will then vote on each conference report.

Once a conference report passes, it is sent to the Governor for his consideration.

For additional details on the budget process view:

- [OPI Pulse: Florida's Budget Process](#)
- [Subcommittee Budget Summaries](#)
- [Overview of Proposed Conforming Bills](#)
- [All Other House Budget Documents](#)

### **Rule Reminder**

*Summary of [House Rules 8.6 - 8.9](#) regarding debate protocol on the House floor:*

#### ***8.6—Decorum***

The members shall attend to the debates unless necessarily prevented, and no member shall stand between the Speaker and a member recognized to speak.

#### ***8.7—Speaking and Debate; Right to Close***

(a) A member may not speak more than once nor occupy more than 15 minutes in debate on any question.  
(b) A member who has the floor may not be interrupted by another member for any purpose, save the privilege of the House, unless he or she consents to yield to the other member. A member desiring to interrupt another in debate should first address the Speaker for the permission of the member speaking. The Speaker shall then ask the member who has the floor if he or she wishes to yield and shall then announce the decision of that member. Whether to yield shall be entirely within the speaking member's discretion. This subsection shall not, however, deprive the first-named sponsor or mover of the right to close when the effect of an amendment or motion would be to foreclose favorable action on the bill, amendment, or motion.

#### ***8.8—Asking Questions of Members***

It is entirely within a speaking member's discretion whether to yield to a question. The proper purpose of a question is to obtain information in good faith, not for the questioner to supply information to the body. Neither a question nor an answer to a question may contain arguments or debate.

#### ***8.9—Right to Open and Close Debate***

The member presenting a motion shall have the right to open and close the debate and, for this purpose, may speak each time up to 10 minutes, unless otherwise limited by majority vote of the House, notwithstanding the limitation in Rule 8.7.